

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

Magazine

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A special message from Fraternity
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Get a snapshot of all things Grand
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Ask the Archivist

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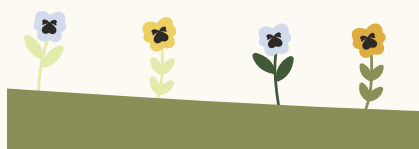


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The Alpha Theta Chapter house was renovated this year

Together

BY: ISABELLA MARKOVSKI-DICKEY | ALPHA/DEPAUW



When people work together, they can achieve remarkable things. When Thetas work together, extraordinary things happen. Together, we can overcome challenges, harness diverse perspectives, and build

strong communities. We write Theta's story together and we make a difference together.

This issue celebrates all the things that become possible when we come together.

This past summer, Thetas from all over gathered in National Harbor, Md., for Grand Convention 2024. Yes, the event's theme was Together, but it really came to fruition seeing old friends reunite and new friends foster connection. Grand Convention coverage in this issue includes lots of

photos, the President's Address, chapter award recognition, a sweet story about a new friendship, and much more.

Also in this issue, you'll find the Founders Day message from Fraternity President Erica Ochs, as well as special Ask the Archivist and Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) articles, both highlighting truly what happens when we come together and lean on one another for support.

As a whole, this Autumn 2024 issue gets at the core of Theta: its purpose, why it exists, and why it continues to be relevant and important. It also celebrates you, Thetas, and all the amazing things you do. Together, we have created a pretty fantastic/historic/supportive/wonderful sisterhood.

Bella

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- "Kappa Alpha Theta," "Theta," its coat of arms, its badges, and the Leading Women logo are registered trademarks of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity.
- Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student organization at Duke, Santa Clara, Georgetown, and Harvard, these schools prohibit using their names in any published reference to our Beta Rho, Eta Lambda, Theta Iota, or Zeta Xi Chapters. We designate those chapters with a tilde (~).
- While some terms used in telling members' stories and personal experiences are not currently in use, they were accurate at the time of these members' college experiences.



MICHIGAN GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER VISITS HER ALMA MATER

In October, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Beta Pi/Michigan State, made a stop at the Beta Pi Chapter facility while on Michigan State's campus to give a talk. Gretchen spoke with Beta Pi collegians about the importance of voting, and she shared that the first elected office she ever held was the president role at Beta Pi Chapter as a collegian. She shared with students, "Being president of a big house on campus was never easy, but I have learned that with every office comes things that are not always comfortable, but it's incredibly rewarding. I've made lifelong relationships with each office I have held because of this opportunity." (Pictured left.)

MAINTAINING CONNECTIONS

Each college chapter (active and inactive) has an alumnae contact officer (ACO). It is this volunteer's responsibility to ensure that all the women from her chapter remain connected to Theta. She does this by finding lost Thetas: women for whom we no longer have a current address.

Technology has made the duties of this volunteer position easy to do from anywhere in the world. In fact, we have ACOs living in El Salvador and Germany! You can also be an ACO for a chapter other than your chapter of initiation. If you think this might be the volunteer role for you, check out the vacancies below and email volunteerengagement@kappaalphatheta.org.

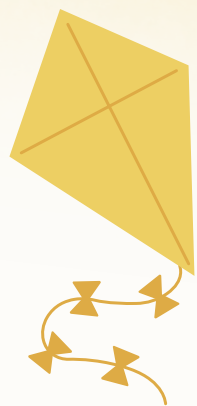
Eta Lambda/~
Eta Mu/Occidental
Eta Nu/Lake Forest
Theta Lambda/Rochester
Theta Mu/Mines

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Are you receiving email communications from Kappa Alpha Theta? Ensure that you're on the mailing list by going to **Theta Portal > Update Your Profile > Communication Preferences**. If you subscribe to Theta email, you can receive the following:

- The quarterly alumnae newsletter, *Bettie's Buzz*
- Important Fraternity news
- Updates on your college chapter
- So much more!

You can also let Fraternity staff know you would like to receive Theta emails by calling 800-526-1870 or emailing info@kappaalphatheta.org.



Founders Day | 2025

Sisterhood is a powerful bond that lifts us up, offering strength in times of struggle and joy in moments of triumph. It is through the unwavering support of those who stand by us, share our dreams, and cheer us on through our challenges that we find the resilience to keep moving forward. Together, we rise stronger, braver, and resilient.

The Friendship Fund provides gifts to Thetas experiencing extreme financial hardship due to serious or terminal illness, job loss, natural disaster, and other devastating occurrences. Often, we focus on the tangible needs that gifts from the Friendship Fund provide to our members during times of financial hardship, but I've come to learn that Friendship Fund gifts also provide recipients with the gift of resilience.

Most recipients of the Friendship Fund would probably tell you they never expected to need a gift, but in their time of urgent need, opening their mailbox and receiving a check from the Fund offered them not only monetary relief, but peace of mind. They might tell you that at a time when they felt most alone or overwhelmed, they were speechless to learn that their sisters were looking after them. They might tell you that their appreciation, gratitude, or love for Kappa Alpha Theta was never greater than in that moment.

A gift from the Friendship Fund is not only monetary. It is a gift of sisterhood, love, and support that enables the recipient to recover from adversity. Knowing that she was thought of in her time of darkness, each Friendship Fund recipient is lifted, finding a spirit of resilience within that might not have been there before.

This past year, I have again seen requests for Friendship Fund gifts grow seemingly exponentially. Hurricanes Helene and Milton, along



with other dire situations, have led to several requests in such a short period of time, far outpacing requests in my first term. Members seeking assistance from the Fund write to not only give their sisters desperately needed financial aid, but also hope and strength. Members in need receive gifts that not only provide them with basic necessities and shelter, but also support them on their journey to recovery.

Of resilience, Katherine Feagin Jeter, Alpha Theta/Texas, said it best in the Spring 2020 issue of the *Theta Magazine*: *A [Theta] is one who desires to live every day with a purpose greater than herself. She expresses acceptance, love, and gratitude to everyone with whom she comes in contact. And she fearlessly recruits resilience in the face of life's toughest moments and tallest mountains.* In life's toughest moments and tallest mountains, a gift from the Fund can be an unexpected recruit, so I hope you will consider giving to the Fund in honor of Founders Day and Theta's 155th year in 2025.

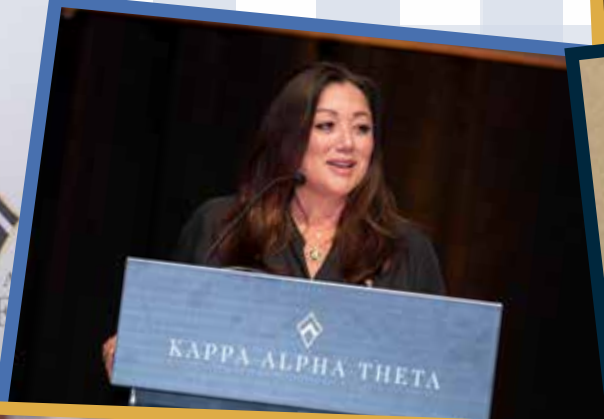
Loyally,

Erica D'Angelo Ochs
Fraternity President

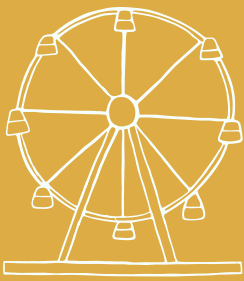


Together

Grand Convention 2024
celebrated Thetas *together*.







2024 - 2026

Grand Council

Elected at each Grand Convention, Grand Council is the governing body of the Fraternity between Conventions and has the full and final authority over and responsibility for the plans, programs, policies, and operations of the Fraternity.



Erica D'Angelo Ochs | Fraternity President Eta Nu/Lake Forest

Erica has completed one term as Fraternity president and has served on Grand Council since 2016. During her time on the board, she has served ex officio as a Theta Foundation trustee and as a Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) vice president. Previously, she served as an administrative district director, a budget district director (BDD), and chair of the chapter compliance committee. In addition to a bachelor's degree in English, Erica holds a second degree in legal assisting. She is currently a sales executive in the automotive industry.



Catherine Lock Bibb | Fraternity Vice President Gamma Phi/Texas Tech

Cate was first elected as a Fraternity vice president in 2018. She has served ex officio as an FHC vice president and as a Theta Foundation trustee, and as a member of the personnel committee. Prior to Grand Council service, Cate served as 3rd and 2nd alternate NPC delegate. Cate also served two terms as chair of Theta's recruitment committee. Cate holds a master's degree in higher education and has served professionally as Panhellenic advisor at Texas Tech University and as an adjunct instructor for Angelo State University. Cate currently works in the travel industry with The Jetlag Experience.



TJ Flynn Condon | Fraternity Vice President Epsilon Lambda/Dickinson

TJ retired from her role as Theta Foundation president this summer, and this is her first term as Fraternity vice president. Previously, she has served as Theta Foundation trustee, Theta Foundation investment committee member, enterprise risk management committee member, scholarship committee member, and advisor for Epsilon Lambda and Epsilon Mu Chapters. TJ has been a technology industry executive for more than 20 years and boasts service on a number of boards, including Executive Women of New Jersey and the Business Marketing Association. TJ is also an author of an award-winning book about caregiving for organ transplant recipients.



Nicole Frank | Fraternity Vice President Beta Theta/Idaho

Nicole completed her first term on Grand Council this past summer and currently serves ex officio as a Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) vice president. Professionally, she is the research development director for the Department of Internal Medicine at University of Utah Health. In addition to her undergraduate degree in microbiology, Nicole holds master's degrees in veterinary microbiology and science & technology policy, and a Ph.D. in pharmacology.



Laura Richardson Bright | Fraternity Vice President Beta Tau/Denison

Laura completed her first term on Grand Council at Grand Convention 2024. Prior to Grand Council service, she served Theta as alumnae committee chair from 2016-2022, and she was a member of the alumnae volunteer engagement committee from 2013-2015. Professionally, she is chief advancement officer for Golisano Children's Museum of Naples. In addition to a bachelor's degree in art history, Laura holds a master's degree in museum studies.



Leslie Holzmark Franklin | Fraternity Vice President Alpha Phi/Tulane

Leslie was elected to her first term as Fraternity vice president, but she has volunteered for Theta continuously since the 1980s. She has advised at three college chapters and was an administrative district director, special assistance mentor, and member of multiple Fraternity task forces. Leslie has served as an alumnae chapter president, representative to a local Panhellenic, and chair of a Theta Foundation committee. Her Theta expertise includes crisis management, member engagement, and volunteer recruitment. Leslie is a marketing communications consultant whose professional career spans the fields of publishing, education, financial services, and nonprofit management. She is also the proud parent of a Theta daughter.



Cynthia Strube Yestal | Fraternity Vice President Beta Chi/Alberta

Cynthia completed her third term on Grand Council as a Fraternity vice president this summer and currently serves as the Grand Council representative on the Theta Foundation Board of Trustees. Prior to her Grand Council service, Cynthia served as director of risk management and completed two terms as risk prevention committee chair. Professionally, Cynthia served in the fundraising industry for many years before transitioning to leadership in her family-owned and -operated autobody business.



Together

President's Address 2024

This speech was given to the attendees of Grand Convention 2024 by Fraternity President Erica D'Angelo Ochs, Eta Nu/Lake Forest.

Today, I stand before you to celebrate one of the most powerful and beautiful forces in the world: sisterhood. In a time where division seems to be the norm, it's critical to remember the unbreakable bond that exists between us as sisters.

Together, we form a community of support, strength, and solidarity that knows no bounds.

Sisterhood is not just a word; it's a commitment. It's a promise to lift each other up, to stand together in times of adversity, and to celebrate each other's victories. It's about embracing our differences and recognizing the unique gifts that each of us possess. No matter how we are bound together, the essence of sisterhood remains the same: unwavering support and unconditional love.

Over the last biennium, I have spent much time reflecting on Theta's mission: Kappa Alpha Theta nurtures each member throughout her lifetime, offering opportunities for intellectual and personal growth. This is why Kappa Alpha Theta exists. Today, I'm reminded of the spirit of President Norma Jorgensen's address from Grand Convention 1970: *[W]e as a fraternity are not and should not be isolated from the events around us...but we have to stay focused on the important goals given to us by our founders so long ago.* Kappa Alpha Theta exists to empower and enable each of us to be better women, so that despite what Theta may or may not advocate for, each of us

has the confidence and skills to advocate, create change, and lead in our communities.

We know that our sisterhood is a desired experience; we see it in DYAD results and in Amplifying Sorority campaign research being facilitated by the Foundation for Fraternal Excellence. In order to keep this experience at the forefront of young minds, we must adapt while staying true to the heritage of Kappa Alpha Theta. To share some examples, belonging is a connection based on a sense of shared values and a feeling of being appreciated and valued for who you are. We have learned from our DYAD research that Theta members' sense of belonging has steadily increased since 2021, but that we are behind participating peer organizations with protective factors while drinking alcohol such as getting a ride home or alternating with a non-alcoholic drink.

All of you here today are currently living or remembering your college experience, but the potential new member of the future is expecting a different experience.

Amplifying Sorority research of Gen Z high school girls has informed us they are prioritizing getting good grades, career preparation, and personal growth over having fun, perhaps as a result of their family experiences during the Great Recession and the fear and uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic. Theta's

continued investment in research initiatives such as these enables Grand Council to make informed, strategic decisions for the future, and allows staff and workforce to develop programming that is desired by members. No matter how the experience evolves, we have the power now to leave a lasting outcome of love and compassion. Let us embrace that power and use it to build a community where women feel valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

You may remember in 2017, Harvard University finalized sanctions that prevented members of single-gender organizations, including sororities, from holding student group leadership positions, varsity athletic team captaincies, and certain prestigious fellowships. The policy was first applied to the class of 2021 and led to the closure of all National Panhellenic Conference groups on campus, including our Zeta Xi Chapter. While university administrators touted the decision as a response to the recommendations of a report on sexual assault prevention, penalizing young women for their involvement in a sorority denied them access to member-driven education and support systems shown to be effective in battling sexual assault, as well as alcohol abuse, mental health issues, and the everyday challenges of college life. Kappa Alpha Theta joined Kappa Kappa Gamma, Sigma Chi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and the local chapter of SAE in a federal lawsuit challenging the sanctions policy. Rightfully, Harvard dropped

the policy in June 2020, ending the lawsuit and Zeta Xi Chapter returned to Theta's roster in the fall of 2022.

Similarly, earlier this year, University of Maryland administrators took unnecessary action against Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Association member organizations by suspending all new member activities and social events following undocumented and vague allegations of misconduct and concerns for student safety. There was also a No Contact Order issued, which banned IFC and Panhellenic members from having any contact with any new member or potential new member—including biological siblings, roommates, classmates, coworkers, etc. Following weeks of no communication from the university and decisions being made without regard for the affected students and organizations, six students and Gamma Mu Chapter initiated legal action against University of Maryland administrators. I can share with you that leaders of the other 15 NPC organizations with chapters on that campus

expressed their gratitude and respect of our Gamma Mu Chapter to me, and even NPC organizations without chapters there are supporting the legal action financially as they see it so important to the rights of our groups.

I share these stories with you to show examples of the grounded, real, and firm support of this organization. Theta rose to challenge Harvard—and won. And we do so again, with the support of the National Panhellenic Conference, for our Gamma Mu Chapter sisters. We do this—Theta does this—because we know that Theta is for a lifetime.

I must point out that Theta continues to be strategic and intentional about building a plan to last long into the future. Part of this is the ever-changing need for an organization like ours to stay relevant and flexible, and the ask of members today is much different than the ask of members in the past. And the ask of future members will be different from the ask of members today. I don't think this will be a surprise to many—if any!—of us, but there is a rising cost associated

with belonging to, working for, and operating an organization like ours. Financially supporting Theta means that it continues to exist every day, but on a more detailed level, it means that chapter reestablishments can happen, chapter houses can stay open, Grand Conventions can be planned for years to come, and Kappa Alpha Theta cannot just exist, but endure. And, just as importantly, supporting Theta with time as a volunteer is quite literally vital to Theta's future. Arguably, time is the most valuable resource we have, so to all our volunteers: *Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

On the same topic of the longevity of Theta's future, I'd like to share with you an overview of Theta's latest Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan defines the goals and aspirations of Theta's three entities: the Fraternity, Theta Foundation, and the Fraternity Housing Corporation. It will help identify the areas that we should focus on for the next three to five years. Creation of the current Plan started in spring 2022 with research, then Grand Council worked with an outside facilitator to review the research,



and overall, we used several resources to guide and inform this Plan's development. This Plan features two strategic themes (or priorities).

First, "Secure Theta's successful future," centering on continued fiscal wellness and meaningful change within the fraternal community. Second, "Theta's continued relevance and the membership experience," focusing on delivering the benefits of Theta membership at each stage of the member experience and creating a welcoming community of sisterhood for all members and potential new members. In fact, this is the fourth time we have a priority around the membership experience and relevance – we have learned that our work in this area is never quite done, as the data I referenced earlier shows us. The opportunities this Plan presents us are achievable, current, and necessary. We have real opportunities for forward movement with this Plan, and I'm thrilled to witness where it takes us.

When we choose to uplift and empower one another, incredible things happen.

We become a force to be reckoned with. We become a force that can shatter glass ceilings, break down barriers, and change the world for the better.

But sisterhood is not just about the big moments; it's about the small acts of kindness and solidarity that happen every day. It's the reassuring hug, the encouraging words, and the listening ear. It's about showing up for each other, no matter what, and reminding each other that we are never alone.

Earlier this year, in March, five members of Gamma Delta Chapter quite literally saved lives. Eleanor Cart, Kaitlyn Iannace, Clarke Jones, Jane McArdle, and Molly McCollum witnessed another vehicle veer off the road into a body of water while on their way to Savannah, Ga. They stopped, helped the woman and two children get out of the sinking vehicle, and communicated with emergency responders. Clarke, a trained lifeguard, performed CPR on one of the children who was unresponsive after being pulled from the vehicle. These five young women didn't hesitate to come to the aid of these passengers when they understood the trouble they were in. I know I speak for all of us when I say how proud I am of these members for the bravery they displayed. We hoped to bring these members to Grand Convention, but to no surprise, they are busy working and interning in the U.S. and abroad this summer. Eleanor, Kaitlyn, Clarke, Jane, and Molly are true testaments to bravery and heart. This immediate action in another's time of need is exactly the kind of real, positive difference that makes Theta *Theta*.

We still have more to celebrate. Since we last gathered for Grand Convention 2022, \$1,725,885 in scholarships have been awarded by Theta Foundation, helping to make higher education a more accessible experience for members. Grand Council engaged an external partner to for an equity audit, supporting us and helping us to understand the different perceptions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion within Theta and with external stakeholders, and we received feedback that Theta's progress in this area was among the more advanced of organizations with which they had worked. In the past biennium, we pledged

115% of our new member goal and initiated 114.27% new members towards our initial goal. This is the first time in its 10-year existence that Fraternity Housing Corporation can fully fund its own operating expenses without the Fraternity. This is possible because of increased focus on alternate revenue sources, adjustments to fees, increased alumnae support, and maximized college chapter membership under new NPC total setting methods. Kappa Alpha Theta boasts more than 2,800 volunteers, and 317 of them are in attendance today. Theta's partnership with National CASA/ GAL celebrated a milestone of 35 years this year. The Kappa Alpha Theta archives celebrates 125 years of official existence this year. Theta is returning to the University of South Carolina in fall 2025, reestablishing our beloved Zeta Kappa Chapter after 24 years. This is just a selection of the many moments to celebrate in what has been a successful biennium, and we must be sure to take the joy from these moments with us in our future endeavors.

In times of stress, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and isolated. But in those moments, it's important to remember that we have a community of sisters standing beside us, ready to offer support and encouragement.

For an organization that has stood the test of time for 154 years, we have proven before that we can achieve anything.

Together, we can weather any storm and emerge stronger on the other side.



Years of the Kappa Alpha Theta Archives

By: Noraleen DuVall Young, Alpha Chi/Purdue

In recognition of the 125 years since the establishment of the Theta archives, I brought more than 150 items to the recent 75th Grand Convention in National Harbor, Md. I asked attendees to identify their five favorite items in the exhibit.

Individually, attendees identified more than 100 items as one of their five favorites. It was fun to hear guests comment on how an item connected to them personally or wishing that the item was available for purchase. Most of all, I enjoyed hearing stories and would love to hear more about these items and others.



Attendees' Five Favorite Things

1. The badges: I brought a badge from every decade of Theta's history, from the 1870s to the 2020s. The earliest was from 1875 and the most recent was a Founder Badge (a replica of a founder's badge produced for Theta's sesquicentennial). Attendees also ranked several specific badges very high. Included among those was the badge belonging to Amy Hayner Kates, Alpha Phi/Tulane, former Fraternity vice president. The badge and accompanying Grand Council pin had been submerged under Hurricane Katrina waters in 2005.



3. A folding stadium seat for Dad's Day from Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma, 1962 (pictured above).



2. A charm bracelet including Theta's letters, a pledge pin, a scholarship crest, a megaphone with "GAA," and a charm signifying the year 1962, circa 1962 (pictured above).

4. A floor-length apron made for Lorie Herbert Merrill, Gamma Xi/San Jose State, circa 1970s. The apron was a thank-you gift for Lorie for her service as alumnae district president. It is composed of patches embroidered by fellow district officers, alumnae chapter officers, and Fraternity officers (pictured right).



5. Songbooks from 1891, 1921, and 1948. Singing was a prominent activity among Thetas. With the first songbook published by Beta Chapter in 1877, the Fraternity continued to publish songbooks through 1978. The songbooks contained music sung at special occasions and recreational events. The Fraternity would often conduct song contests or even require chapters to submit songs for a new edition of a songbook (pictured left).

Do you have items you'd like to donate to Theta's archives?

Visit www.kappaalphatheta.org/heritage and select Archives Requests & Gifts in the upper right corner to get in touch with me about your items!

College & Alumnae Chapter Recognition

College Founders Award

Gamma Delta/Georgia

College Founders Award Finalists

Kappa/Kansas
Alpha Pi/North Dakota
Alpha Mu/Missouri
Gamma Delta/Georgia
Gamma Tau/Tulsa

College Golden Kite Award

Mu/Allegheny
Kappa/Kansas
Lambda/Vermont
Gamma deuteron/Ohio Wesleyan
Upsilon/Minnesota
Delta/Illinois
Alpha Mu/Missouri
Alpha Pi/North Dakota
Alpha Rho/South Dakota
Alpha Chi/Purdue
Beta Gamma/Colorado State
Beta Delta/Arizona
Beta Zeta/Oklahoma State
Beta Theta/Idaho
Beta Xi/UCLA
Beta Tau/Denison
Gamma Delta/Georgia
Gamma Mu/Maryland
Gamma Tau/Tulsa
Gamma Phi/Texas Tech
Gamma Omega/Auburn
Delta Eta/Kansas State
Epsilon Omega/ Washington & Jefferson
Zeta Nu/UC Davis
Eta Pi/Case Western Reserve
Eta Rho/James Madison
Eta Phi/Belmont

College Silver Kite Award

Alpha/DePauw
Beta/Indiana
Omicron/USC

Psi/Wisconsin
Alpha Eta/Vanderbilt
Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma
Alpha Sigma/Washington State
Alpha Tau/Cincinnati
Alpha Psi/Lawrence
Beta Epsilon/Oregon State
Beta Iota/Colorado
Beta Kappa/Drake
Beta Lambda/William & Mary
Beta Omicron/Iowa
Beta Omega/Colorado College
Gamma Zeta/Connecticut
Gamma Kappa/George Washington
Delta Epsilon/Arizona State
Delta Zeta/Emory
Delta Theta/Florida
Delta Omicron/Alabama
Epsilon Theta/Stetson
Epsilon Rho/Lehigh
Epsilon Psi/Richmond
Zeta Eta/Wofford
Zeta Iota/Washington & Lee
Zeta Mu/MIT
Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern
Zeta Chi/Johns Hopkins
Zeta Omega/Loyola Marymount
Eta Theta/Central Florida
Eta Lambda/~
Eta Omega/Saint Louis
Theta Iota/~
Theta Nu/Georgia Tech
Theta Pi/Sacred Heart

College Bronze Kite Award

Iota/Cornell
Nu/Hanover
Pi/Albion
Phi deuteron/Stanford
Alpha Phi/Tulane
Beta Eta/Pennsylvania
Beta Mu/Nevada
Beta Psi/McGill
Gamma Epsilon/Western

Gamma Rho/UC Santa Barbara
Gamma Psi/TCU
Delta Delta/Whitman
Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor
Epsilon Eta/Centre
Epsilon Iota/Westminster
Epsilon Lambda/Dickinson
Epsilon Phi/Chicago
Zeta Tau/Delaware
Eta Xi/Quinnipiac

College Excellence Awards

Excellence in Academic Development:
Beta Epsilon/Oregon State

Excellence in DEI:
Gamma deuteron/Ohio Wesleyan

Excellence in Member Health and Wellbeing:
Gamma Delta/Georgia

Excellence in Sisterhood:
Kappa/Kansas

Alumnae Founders Award

South Orange County

Alumnae Founders Award Finalists

Baton Rouge
Greater Kansas City
South Orange County

Alumnae Golden Kite Award

Atlanta
Austin
Baton Rouge
Birmingham, MI
Columbia Area SC
Columbus, OH
Dallas
Denver
Fort Smith
Greater Fort Myers
Greater Kansas City
Houston
Iowa City-Cedar Rapids

Grand Convention awards celebrate chapter members' efforts to spread the widest influence for good, their devotion to lifelong learning, and all the ways we personify our values.

Jacksonville
Lubbock
Memphis
Milwaukee
Naples-Marco Island-Bonita Springs
Omaha
Providence
Rockford
Sacramento
San Antonio
San Mateo
Sarasota
Southeastern Virginia
South Orange County
Tampa
Toronto

Alumnae Silver Kite Award

Alaska
Albuquerque
Boise
Boston Metro
Bryan-College Station
Central Florida
Charlotte Area
Cleveland
Coastal Empire
Des Moines
Fargo
Fort Worth
Grand Forks
Grand Rapids
Hartford
Hill Country
Houston NW
Inland Southern California
Katy-West Houston
Lafayette
Los Angeles
Miami
Nashville
New Orleans
New York City
NJ North Central
Oklahoma City

Olympia
Palos Verdes
Pasadena
Phoenix
Pittsburgh
Reno
San Francisco
Southern Denton County
Spokane
St. Petersburg
The Woodlands Area
Tulsa
Twin Cities
Tyler
Westchester, NY
Wichita
Winston-Salem

Alumnae Bronze Kite Award

Amarillo
Birmingham, AL
Calgary
Central Arkansas
Flatirons
Fort Collins
Fresno
Greater Chicago
Indianapolis
Knoxville
Lincoln
Louisville
Mid-Cities
NC Triangle
NW Arkansas
Orange County
Oxford
Palm Beach
Philadelphia
Tacoma
Upstate SC
Vero Beach
Western North Carolina

**Theta Foundation Awards
COLLEGE**

Top College Chapter in Overall Giving to Theta Foundation:

Delta Omega/Texas A&M

Circle of Aspiration:

Beta Delta/Arizona

Circle of Truth: Psi/Wisconsin

Circle of Light: Gamma Tau/Tulsa

Circle of Loyalty: Theta Iota/~

ALUMNAE

Top Alumnae Chapter in Overall Giving to Theta Foundation:

Nashville

Circle of Aspiration: Houston

Circle of Truth: Dallas

Circle of Light: Greater Kansas City

Circle of Loyalty: Sarasota

**NEW TUNNICLIFFE TRIBUTE SOCIETY
- COLLEGE MEMBERS**

Alpha/DePauw
Alpha Theta/Texas
Beta Delta/Arizona
Beta Iota/Colorado
Delta Epsilon/Arizona State
Delta Theta/Florida
Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor
Epsilon Pi/Bucknell
Epsilon Rho/Lehigh

**NEW TUNNICLIFFE TRIBUTE SOCIETY
- ALUMNAE MEMBERS**

Hill Country
Rio Grande
Southeastern Virginia
Tyler



There are no gaps between Theta generations, just *pansies*!

Pansy Patch was a blooming success and the only thing more outstanding than the pansies was the love and thoughtfulness behind each one representing a commitment to the next generation of Thetas.

Pansy Patch is Theta Foundation's official Grand Convention fundraiser and spreading Theta love is how the Patch blooms year after year. Thetas, along with their friends and families, purchase virtual pansies in honor of the special Thetas in their lives. Every pansy purchased and planted supports leadership and learning programs for members to reach their fullest potential and make a positive difference in their communities.

Thanks to your generosity, an incredible

\$108,550

was raised for the *Theta Forever Fund* and more than 5,600 virtual pansies were planted!

Because of **YOU**, Theta Foundation can continue to provide funding opportunities so members can become their very best.

Adding to the excitement, donors had the opportunity to select the chapter and college/university to receive credit for the number of pansies purchased. The following standings reflect the Top 10 chapters with the most pansies purchased.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Psi/Wisconsin - 402 | 6. Lambda/Vermont - 156 |
| 2. Delta Kappa/LSU - 273 | 7. Zeta Mu/MIT - 148 |
| 3. Epsilon Lambda/Dickinson - 203 | 8. Gamma Phi/Texas Tech - 140 |
| 4. Beta Nu/Florida State - 183 | 9. Alpha Phi/Tulane - 127 |
| 5. Epsilon Mu/Princeton - 167 | 10. Zeta Omicron/Wake Forest - 121 |

Gold Pansy Giving Clubs continue to be a highlight of Pansy Patch. Gold Pansy donors were able to honor a special Theta at one of three giving levels. Every Gold Pansy donor received a custom pansy pin denoting their membership in these clubs, and honorees received gold pansy pins symbolizing the thoughtfulness shown from the Theta sisters by whom they were honored.

Theta Foundation is honored to recognize the following, generous Gold Pansy donors:

IN LOVE – \$15,000 exemplifies Theta love that transcends generations.

- Mary Ellen Kutsenda Fitzsimonds
- Wendy Sears Goshert

IN HOPE – \$1,500 represents gratitude for the hope nurtured by your gift and the positivity that Kappa Alpha Theta brings to your life.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Cate Lock Bibb | • Amy Hamilton | • Pat Doomar Mierse |
| • April Brown | • Leah Hartman | • Erica D'Angelo Ochs |
| • Cathie Waters Cardelucci | • Kelley Galbreath Hurst | • Jenni Broughton Schmaltz |
| • TJ Flynn Condon | • Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity | • Donna Levens Schmidt |
| • Rachel Coulter | • Carryl Wischmeyer Krohne | • Beth Gregory St. Jean |
| • Jane Shepherd Dick | • Karen Albrecht Ledbetter | • Cindy Heine Stellhorn |
| • Kellie Dickerson | • Cindy Westhafer Leonard | • Cydney Stewart |
| • Laura Ware Doerre | • Kim Harvey Looney | • Kelly Wesley Taylor |
| • Lauren Schult Fadden | • Stephanie Machen | • Mandy Burgett Wushinske |
| • Nicole Frank | • Beth Nagel Marcin | • Cynthea Strube Yestal |
| • Nancy Milligan Frick | • Ella McDade | • Lisa R. Youngers |

IN FAITH – \$150 commemorates your faith in a lifetime of friendship for women with shared values.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Leigh Ashley | • Amy Hamilton | • Krisanne Russell-Vann |
| • Laura Richardson Bright | • Amy Hammer | • Emilee Sanderson |
| • Marie Brown | • Kyle Hartvickson Handegard | • Chrissy Tam Shelton |
| • Jennifer Drury Buzdecky | • Nikki Selander Heyd | • Jennifer Smith |
| • Stephanie Talley Campbell | • Cathy Campbell Hurtle | • Christa Dell Sobon |
| • TJ Flynn Condon | • Courtney Green Knittle | • Lisa Sombart Street |
| • Anne-Marie Bielinski Crowley | • Cindy Westhafer Leonard | • Katie Moes Tamaalii |
| • Kendy Cusick-Rindone | • Laura Locke | • Tina Villarete Tran |
| • Kelly McGuire Diehl | • Kim Harvey Looney | • Dawn Watkins |
| • Michelle Mouton Geiger | • Christine Klofanda McDonald | • Franny Fitzgerald Williams |
| • Jodi Roberts Gianfala | • Katharine Murphy | • Susan Papai Wolff |
| • Wendy Sears Goshert | • Erica D'Angelo Ochs | • Lisa R. Youngers |
| • Heather Breuninger Granato | • Jodi Rumble | |



Thank you for helping Pansy Patch 2024 overflow with love and thoughtfulness. Together, we did it: We planted a thriving Pansy Patch!





What Grand Convention is All About

Two Thetas (Cortney Garabedian, Gamma Chi/Fresno State, and Amy Erger Sasseen, Beta Mu/Nevada) were randomly paired as roommates at their first Grand Convention. What happened, you ask? They hit it off like they had known each other their entire lives.

How did you feel before you arrived at Grand Convention? How do you feel after?

Cortney: Prior to attending this year's Grand Convention, I was so excited for this opportunity, but nervous not

knowing anyone. While I had "met" other delegates in my district (14) and District 15 on a few Zoom sessions, it still gave me butterflies hoping that I was going to make friends. Knowing that I was going to be with other Theta sisters for the weekend helped and it didn't feel like I was flying across the country to meet complete strangers.

Amy: I was pretty nervous before heading out to Grand Convention. Most of the alumnae delegates are alumnae chapter presidents but our president wasn't able to go. I hold a couple of positions on our alumnae chapter board, so I was nominated to go as our delegate. I had never met a single person who was going to be at Grand Convention this year. I've been to conferences in the past where I didn't know anyone and I thought about how awkward it was, trying to meet new people but often standing alone; I worried it would be like that. I couldn't have been more wrong. I should have considered that we are all Thetas, and we have that connection right off the bat. There wasn't a moment where I felt left out, shy, or even nervous once I got there. Everyone was so welcoming, and we had such great conversations, both with alumnae and with collegians.

What role did meeting each other play in your Grand Convention experience?

C: When I received my roommate pairing with Amy, I immediately texted her to reach out and we instantly began planning our extra day of sightseeing in DC for the day after Convention! Once we officially met in the airport, we just hit it off and I knew it was going to be the best weekend with her! Meeting Amy played such a vital role in my Grand Convention experience, and I am so thankful that we became as close as we did! Each night in our hotel room was filled with endless laughs while staying up late chatting!

A: Cortney was the first person I met, and I feel like meeting her really set the tone for the weekend. We found each other at the airport and basically didn't stop talking until the moment we left at the end of the weekend. It surprised me how quickly we connected and had so much to talk about when we had only just met. I felt like our personalities and senses of humor were a perfect match. It made me feel so

much more comfortable talking to other new people because she had been so lovely, and it reminded me that that's just how Thetas are. We are the kind of people who are welcoming to newcomers and can find common ground and connection and have meaningful conversations with people.

How has this new friendship changed your perspective on Theta as a whole?

C: My friendship with Amy reminded me so much of all of the best friends that I met from Theta. I cannot thank Theta enough for the friendships made!

A: Finding that connection with Cortney helped expand my view of Theta and how connected we all are. Meeting someone for the first time and realizing what a smart, caring, and funny person she is showed me that Theta's values really do shine through in our sisters worldwide, not just the amazing women that I met during my college experience. We look for specific ideals in potential new members and meeting members from other chapters that exemplify those ideals shows how strong our values are and how keeping those standards helps keep our fraternity strong as well.

What is your outlook on Kappa Alpha Theta following Grand Convention and/or the start of this friendship?

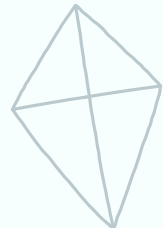
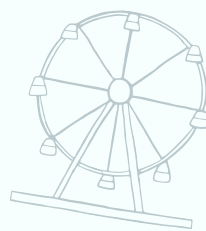
C: Having the opportunity to represent the Fresno Alumnae Chapter as our president/ delegate for Grand Convention gave me so many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. The friendship that I made with Amy just came so easy and embodies what Theta is all about. When we say 'Theta for a lifetime,' I find this not only true from the sisterhood we share, but also the core memories we make with sisters all around.

A: Grand Convention gave me a renewed spirit and love for Theta. I loved seeing all the women who had been to 10, 15, 20+ Grand Conventions and how passionate they still are about Theta. Being able to vote on legislation showed me that we all really do have a voice and a say in how our organization is run and what the future holds for it. Before going to Grand Convention, I had a couple alumnae tell me that everyone should go to Grand Convention at least once and it is true: It really is something special that I wish all of our members could experience at some point.

How has this new friendship changed you for the better?

C: I am beyond thankful that I met a wonderful sister/friend and that we shared our first Grand Convention together! We have already talked about meeting up with each other before the next Convention in Las Vegas!

A: It can be hard to make new friends as an adult, but meeting Cortney has shown me that there are still good people out there. You can't be afraid to put yourself out there because you never know when you're going to meet a new friend!



Sisters First, Friends for Life

By: Rachel Ingle | Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern

When I came to Kappa Alpha Theta headquarters this summer to intern in the archives, I had no intention of becoming best friends with someone born 130 years before me. My role as the archives intern was to read, digitize, and catalog a collection of several hundred original letters from the late 1800s and early 1900s. These letters belonged to Edna Hamilton, Bettie Locke Hamilton's daughter. Edna, initiated in 1895, was a member of Alpha Chapter at DePauw University, and my task was to review the content of the letters for the Theta archives. However, the more I dove into the collection, one name kept appearing repeatedly: Hattie Mary Tutewiler. After reading hundreds of correspondences written by Hattie, I believe I can say I know her almost as well as Edna did, and I discovered a beautiful friendship between two Thetas.



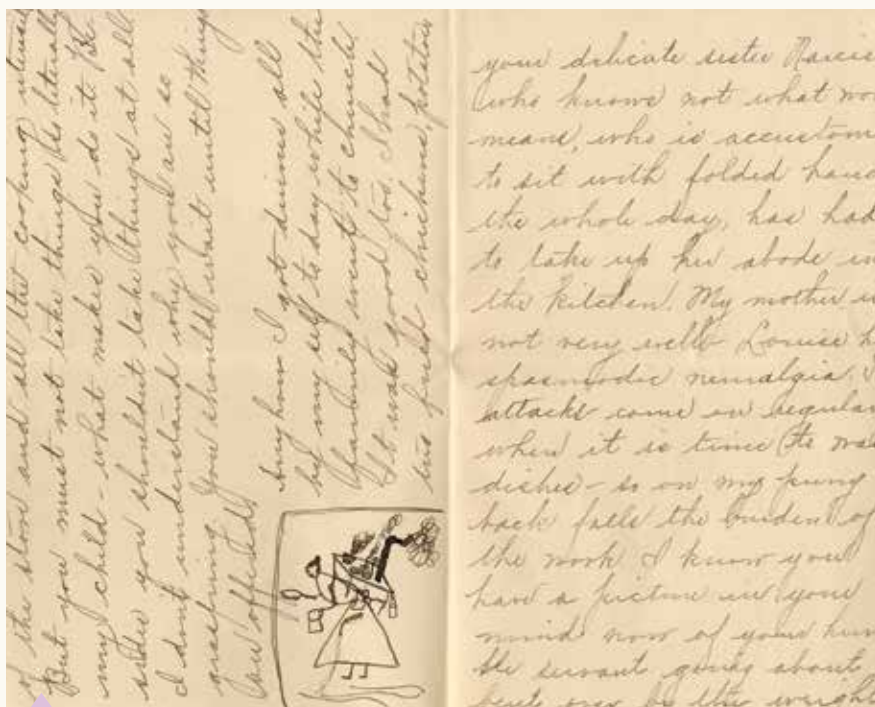
Rachel Ingle, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern, in the Theta archives at Theta headquarters.

When I first started reading Hattie's letters, I imagined Hattie and Edna like characters in a book following a storyline. But the more letters I read and the more I got to know Hattie, I came to the realization that they were very real people. Real people with real lives and family that are simply gone now and forgotten by most.

Hattie was also a member of Alpha Chapter, initiated in 1894. Hattie and Edna met and became friends when Edna started attending DePauw in 1895. (Hattie was 20 years old, and Edna was 16.) After graduating in 1897, Hattie moved to her family's home in Indianapolis, while Edna stayed in Greencastle until she graduated in 1901. It was around the summer of 1897 when I began consistently coming across Hattie's letters in Edna's collection. Every workday when I carefully opened the letters from their original envelopes, I imagined I felt the same excitement and anticipation Edna once felt opening them, eager to hear what adventures Hattie had been up to lately.



Hattie Tutewiler, Alpha/DePauw, is front, center.



Hattie joked with Edna about how she had to take on the role of a "servant" in her household because her mother was sick. She drew a funny picture of what she probably looked like trying to manage all of the tasks.



A picture of Edna that Hattie drew in one of her letters.

Once Hattie moved back home, she lived a very busy life, but always found time to write to Edna. She was hired to teach first and second grade in an Indianapolis public school in 1899. Hattie had the funniest stories to tell about the children she taught and loved them more than anything. She was very active in the Indianapolis Alumnae Chapter and in her Methodist church. In 1902, she obtained her master's degree in French from DePauw, and in 1903, Hattie married her longtime classmate (and love interest) Dr. Fred Blackwelder. Shortly after her marriage, Hattie left Indianapolis to live in New Mexico where her husband was beginning his medical practice. Unfortunately, Hattie passed away from a mysterious illness in 1904, just six months after she got married. She was just 29 years old.

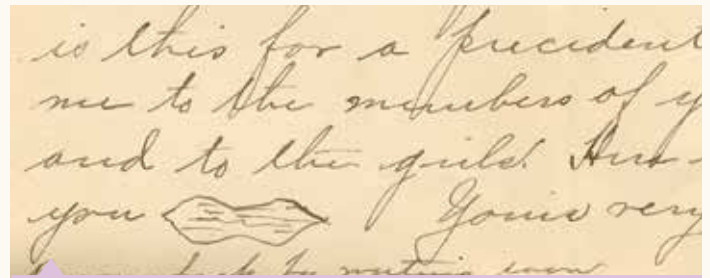
Hattie wrote to Edna once—if not twice—per week every week until the day she passed. These letters and Hattie's memory were immensely important to Edna. So much so that it appears Edna kept every single one of Hattie's letters and passed them down to her family after her own death.

“*Their friendship undeniably lasted for a lifetime, no different from the friendships we share with our Theta sisters today.*”

Reflecting on everything I learned and experienced through the eyes of Hattie, I had previously unintentionally thought of the 1800s and early 1900s as a time in which people were just duller than they are today. As bad as it sounds, I honestly imagined women chained to the social framework in which they were instructed to follow and without much personality at all. The black and white images from that time allowed me to picture that period as dark and lifeless, but there was truly so much color to their lives. These letters have shown me that these people were (and are!) truly human, and they are no different from us today. Women gossiped, teased, talked about boys, and made jokes. They were extremely intelligent, sarcastic, and eloquent. Instead of texting or social media, Hattie and Edna had letters.

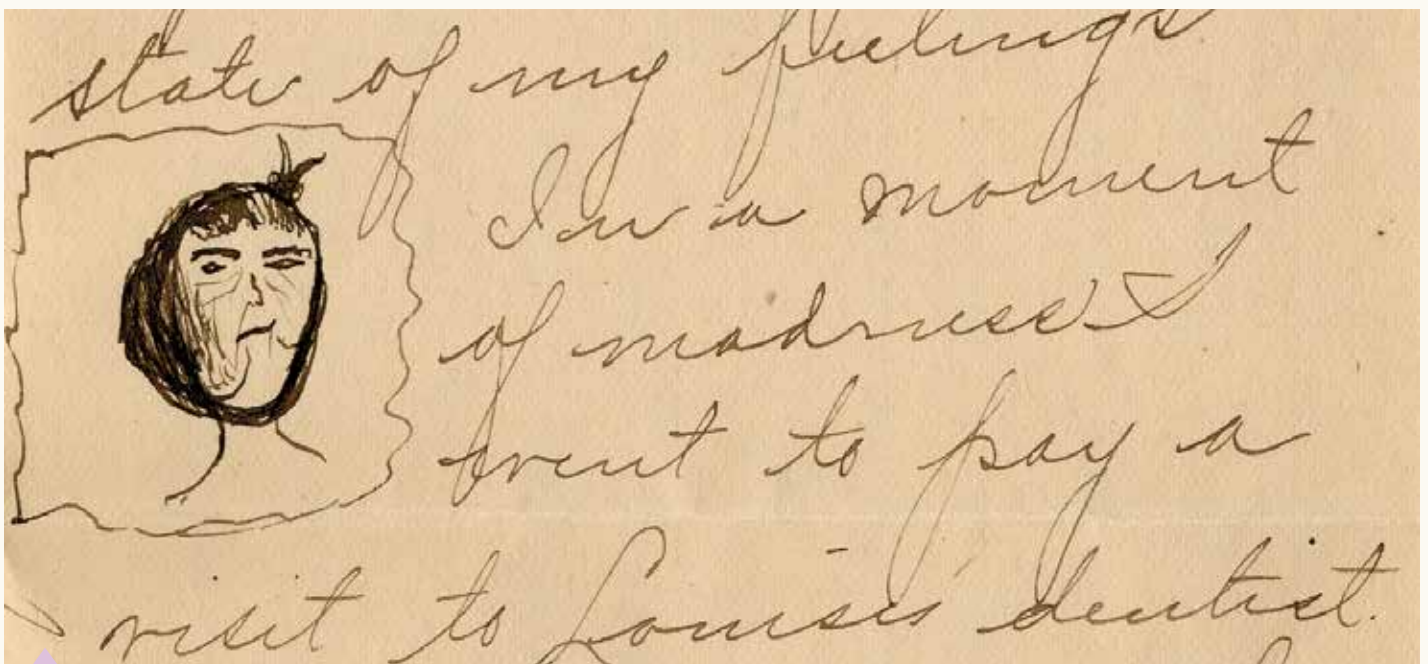
Because of their four-year age gap, Hattie became like a big sister to Edna. In practically every letter, she began with some variation of, "My Dear Child," "My Dear Little Monkey," or even, "My Dear Infant." And she never failed to end her letters with lots of love and kisses, often drawing a pair of lips saying, "...a kiss for you." Even in the 1800s before the tradition of bigs and littles had been adopted, Hattie's and Edna's relationship most certainly embodied the big/little relationships that many Thetas can relate to today. Hattie's remarks about and love for Edna remind me exactly of the love my big in Theta holds for me.

My favorite letter from Hattie humorously depicted her experience going to the dentist and how it is not so different from the feelings we have about it today. She even referred to her dentist as a "creature." She said, "It is my custom to honor these creatures with my presence just before school begins. Of course, he discovered a place to work on—they always do." Hattie ended up having a tooth filled, and her face swelled up like a balloon in the following days. "I always had thought I should like to be fat, but I find it is a very painful process and not at all becoming to me."



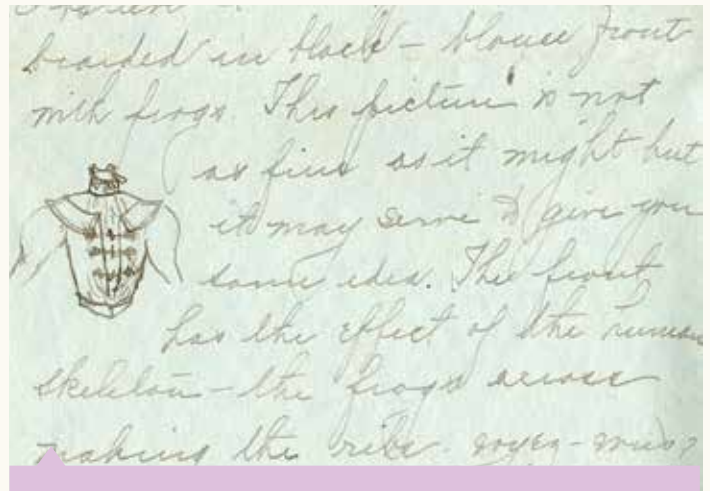
Hattie would draw lips in letters, sending love and kisses to Edna.

She even drew Edna a picture of her pitiful state. "I was such a pitiful looking object. I put on a thick black veil and with my mother as my protectoress went down to that creature's. Well, he petted me a little and then had the audacity to poke some kind of sharp steel thing clear into my gum to the root of the tooth. I screamed bloody murder for I fully expected the instrument to come out the back of my head." Hattie's sense of humor here especially reminded me of the similarities Hattie had to women today, even myself. This whole situation is so similar to something I would text to my Theta sisters after having a horrible experience at the dentist.



In describing her trip to the dentist, Hattie drew a picture of herself looking extremely swollen: "I must illustrate my letters again. This expresses the present state of my feelings. In a moment of madness, I went to pay a visit to Louise's dentist."

Because Hattie is long gone, it is strange to feel that I know someone who was born 150 years ago better than I know people living today. And knowing that it is a one-sided friendship makes it even more strange. Hattie will never know me as well as I know her. In two months, I met, became exceptionally acquainted with, and grieved the same person. Hattie was the quirkiest person I knew. She had a fierce personality, a great sense of humor, and a heart full of compassion. She loved to draw little doodles and goofily depict what she was writing about. She loved the French language and even wrote love notes and entire plays in French to Edna. Her favorite color was blue, and she always had something to say about what she was wearing. She got sick at least once a month but always managed to gather the strength to write Edna a letter about news or gossip. And on top of everything, she was proud to be a Theta. Hattie's and Edna's story is just one fragment of all the great friendships that have begun in Kappa Alpha Theta and groups like Theta.

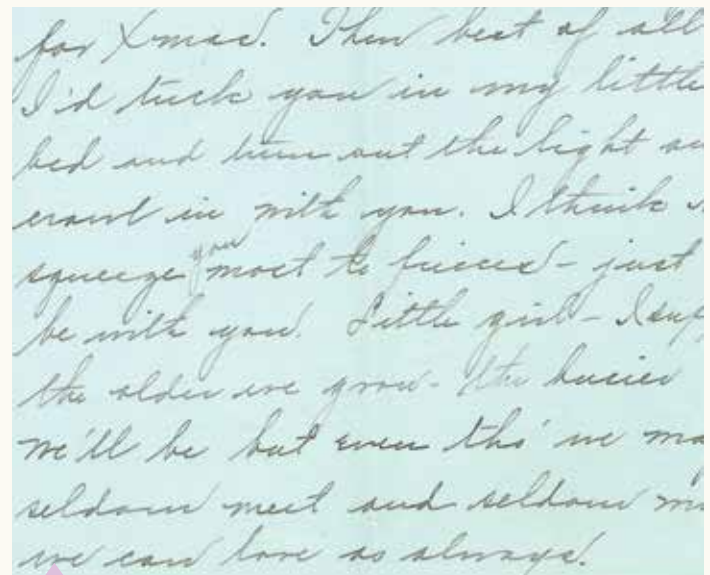


Hattie wrote about a new dress and drew a picture of it. She also included a French saying at the end that means, You see? "But I have the prettiest dress you ever saw. I believe I told you it was blue braided in black -- blouse front with frogs. This picture is not as fine as it might, but it may serve to give you some idea. The front has the effect of the human skeleton -- the frogs across making the ribs - voyez-vous?"

“From 1870 to 2024, Kappa Alpha Theta has been bringing women together in a sisterhood that lasts a lifetime. In groups like Theta, you find your best friend.”

While her story is not the most glamorous Theta highlight, Hattie Tutewiler embodies a Theta we all know, maybe even ourselves. I know that every Theta can find comfort and familiarity within Edna's and Hattie's friendship. I am honored to have brought Hattie a voice once again after going so many years forgotten. I hope that somehow, somewhere, Hattie knows that her story will now be remembered in Theta history forever. One of the last letters from Hattie to Edna in February 1903 sums up that friendship that lasted a lifetime: "Little girl—I suppose the older we grow, the busier we'll be, but even tho' we may seldom meet and seldom write, we can love as always."

Rachel's internship was supported in part by Theta Foundation. Rachel's work improves access to these letters for future scholars of college educated women during this time period.



Hattie reminisced about what she and Edna would do if they could visit each other: "Then best of all I'd tuck you in my little bed and turn out the light and crawl in with you. I think I'd squeeze you most to pieces -- just to be with you." Then the ending quote: "Little girl -- I suppose the older we grow, the busier we'll be, but even tho' we may seldom meet and seldom write, we can love as always."

WHAT'S GOING ON IN

Theta CONNECT

The easiest way to share what is happening with your chapter is to post about it at **thetacconnect.org**!

In the Event Board and Photos areas, share holiday get-togethers, philanthropy events, chapter anniversary celebrations, and more!



"Gamma Chi Recruitment 2024"

*Posted by Madilyn Pedersen,
Gamma Chi/Fresno State*



"I am delighted to share that we had a successful recruitment season and gained 10 new members for the Epsilon Iota chapter. Please enjoy these pictures from black & gold pictures, bid day, and recruitment practices."

*Posted by Madelynn Kordik,
Epsilon Iota/Westminster*



"Thetas love service!"

*Posted by Carly Young,
Beta Tau/Denison*

HOW DO I POST ON THE EVENT BOARD?

Using ThetaConnect, you can advertise and publicize your event by filling out the relevant information on the Post Event form under Events.

You can target exactly who you want to invite by using the advanced filters, and after making sure that Do You Want to Invite an Audience is toggled on. When you're ready, just click Post on the bottom of the page and your event will be publicized to your audience. Your event will also be searchable on the calendar feature in Events so users can search for it by date.

Visit the ThetaConnect Event Board to find events near you!





"I had so much fun getting together with other Eta Omega chapter alumnae for the CASA Trivia Night! It's always a good time to hang out with sisters and supporting such an amazing organization."

Posted by Sophie Thibault, Eta Omega/Saint Louis



"The Memphis Alumnae Chapter officers paid homage to Bettie Locke by beautifying cradle graves at an old historic cemetery. Quite a few Thetas are at rest here, including Miss Ada Raines, a Vanderbilt alumna who served Theta for a lifetime and was the backbone of organizing Memphis alumnae over 100+ years ago! Huge hugs to our hubbies for helping!"

Posted by Ardith Morrison Morgan, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi



"This past week I was able to host the annual 'Bark B Que' event and it was a huge success. The Alpha chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta and the DePauw Phi Gamma Delta raised over \$1,200 for the Putnam County Humane Society! We brought dogs from the Humane Society for students to meet and support and also had a campus favorite band, Heartthrobs, perform live, creating an incredible atmosphere. A special thank you goes out to everyone who attended and help set this event up as well as our sponsors, Upper Crust food services and Poppi."

Posted by Tara Holder, Alpha/DePauw



"I hope everyone had a fantastic FDΘC yesterday and wish all our Beta Phi sisters the best of luck as they start the new school year. A special shoutout to Emily Acosta, who designed first-day-of-class merchandise for our sisters to wear! Tag a sister you see below, your study buddy, or a sister you have class with! TLAM!"

Posted by Meghan Quinn, Beta Phi/Penn State



Curious About **LIFE LOYAL?**

When you become a Life Loyal member, you help fund educational, communications, and personal development programs for all Thetas. By becoming Life Loyal, you receive every printed issue of the *Theta Magazine*, Fraternity dues payments for life*, a handcrafted lapel pin, a personalized wallet card, and more. Here's how to enroll:



Online

Simply go to
thetalifeloyal.org
to join and pay online.



Mail

Print the enrollment form
available at **thetalifeloyal.org**
and mail the completed form
with your check or credit card
information to:

Kappa Alpha Theta
attn: Angela Merk
8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268



Phone

Call Theta headquarters,
800-526-1870 ext. 140, to
provide your contact and
payment information over
the phone.

*Not including alumnae chapter dues.



*Unsure about joining Life Loyal but want to support the next generation of Thetas? Pay your annual alumnae dues! Learn more at **www.kappaalphatheta.org/alumnae/alumnae-dues**.*

BECOME A *Life Loyal* THETA!

These women enrolled between May 1 and July 31, 2024.

Alpha/DePauw

Jane Willander Danis

Gamma/Butler

Caroline Diehl

Nu/Hanover

Ashley Krininger

Omicron/USC

Andrea Goodson Casaw

Upsilon/Minnesota

Serina Lawal

Phi/Pacific

Liz Shaw Sparks

Alpha Theta/Texas

Kay Christy Harris

Shari Waldie

Alpha Lambda/Washington

Hooria Jazaieri

Alpha Mu/Missouri

Stephanie Meador Huston

Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma

Carol Knecht Dixon

Amber Knapp Vawter

Alpha Pi/North Dakota

Taylor Clark

Alpha Tau/Cincinnati

Julie Sonnanstine Sibthorp

Beth Horn Steur

Judy Mart Wulfeck

Alpha Phi/Tulane

Teresa Fuller

Faith Kendrick Hindman

Alpha Chi/Purdue

Kristin Akers McCord

Beta Delta/Arizona

Stevie Stevens Eller

Beta Kappa/Drake

Jessica Leggott Covi

Beta Mu/Nevada

Ciera Lindsay

Beta Pi/Michigan State

Julie Nause Bellotti

Beta Sigma/SMU

Avery Fuller-Monk

Leslee Harp Shannon

Beta Tau/Denison

Demi Johnson

Gamma Delta/Georgia

Claire Hackleman

Gamma Iota/Kentucky

Jeannie Haines Livesay

Katie Wilkerson Rethman

Gamma Pi/Iowa State

Ryan Davidson Anderson

Alicia McQuilkin-Russell

Gamma Psi/TCU

Michelle Wilson Cyrus

Gamma Omega/Auburn

Lisa Roby Fritz

Ashley Spence

Valerie Valow-Orris

Delta Epsilon/Arizona State

Lauren Schult Fadden

Charlotte Leonard

Delta Theta/Florida

Pam Williams LaCrosse

Delta Iota/Puget Sound

Cece Olivarez Olivares

Delta Omicron/Alabama

Christy Barzizza

Stephanie Talley Campbell

Sarah Rumfelt

Morgan Ryley

Delta Upsilon/ Eastern Kentucky

Nancy Parker Sturgill

Delta Psi/UC Riverside

Virginia McLain Rusk

Delta Omega/Texas A&M

Lauren Fritz Allison

Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi

Caroline Montez

Epsilon Theta/Stetson

Alexis Garas

Zeta Omicron/Wake Forest

Hayden Drass Barnes

Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern

Kayla Starling Bendele

Zeta Tau/Delaware

Jennifer Slamm

Eta Phi/Belmont

Anna Love

Eta Psi/Tufts

Ava Van Gelder

Eta Omega/Saint Louis

Sophie Thibault

Theta Nu/Georgia Tech

Brenna Cheney

Snapshots



INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Each year at Whitman College, the senior class chooses one of their own to say a few words at commencement. Representing the Class of 2024 was **Shola Mau, Delta Delta/Whitman**, who graduated with a degree in Art-Environmental Studies. During her time at Whitman, Shola served as a Greek Allies Program representative and in many executive roles at Delta Delta Chapter. Outside of Whitman, Shola also volunteered with Story Time and at the Blue Mountain Humane Society.

B Zeta Phi Chapter Advisory Board Chair (ABC) **Christa Samaha, Eta Rho/James Madison**, was named Pepperdine advisor of the year. Pictured are Vice President Operations (VPO) **Marie McGrath, Zeta Phi/Pepperdine**; Christa; Chapter President **Sophia Douville, Zeta Phi/Pepperdine**; and Vice President Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (VPDEI) **Melanie Tadros, Zeta Phi/Pepperdine**.

C **Nishka Bahl, Epsilon Mu/Princeton**, was the first-ever recipient of the Jane Shepherd Dick Celebration of Service Scholarship. At Grand Convention 2024, Nishka got to connect with **Jane, Epsilon Mu/Princeton**, herself! Nishka said, "From hearing her own experience with Theta at Princeton, as well as meeting so



many other amazing young women who were serving as president for their respective Theta chapters, I gained priceless insights into how I can be troubleshooting my chapter's problems and serving as a better leader for my sisters."



D My Sisters' Place, an organization working to end violence in intimate relationships and combat the effects of domestic violence and human trafficking on adults and children throughout Westchester County and the surrounding region, is recognizing **Lisa Davis Olney, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State**, as its esteemed honoree at their Spring Benefit in May 2025. In sharing the news with Kappa Alpha Theta, Interim Chief Executive Officer Denise Durham Williams said, "Lisa is a treasured member of the MSP family, and through her passionate advocacy and creative outreach approaches, is making meaningful change in our communities. As a former member of our Board of Directors, Lisa continues to keep MSP in her heart. Combining her love for MSP and tennis, Lisa launched her annual Eat, Play, Love tennis event in 2018, raising awareness and critical funds, helping to keep MSP strong."

E Three Theta alumnae volunteer at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colo.! Pictured are **Nancy Hochman, Phi/Pacific**; **Marianne Morrow Brooks, Delta Omega/Texas A&M**; and **Joelle Pozza Shreves, Beta Pi/Michigan State**.

F Alumnae from **Delta Chapter at Illinois University** enjoyed a weekend together, including Theta Foundation Vice President **Amy Hamilton** (far right).

G Sixteen Theta alumnae from **Epsilon Epsilon Chapter at Baylor University** gathered earlier this year.

H **Beta Nu Chapter** alumnae gathered to see the Florida Theatre and Theatre Jacksonville production of **MAME** in concert. The group came out to support **Sarah Boone**, executive director of Theatre Jacksonville and fellow Beta Nu alumna, when they later learned that **Dorothy Bishop**, starring as Vera Charles in the production, was also a Beta Nu alumna!



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SNAPSHOTS

I Susan Spieker Kenney, Leigh McGowan Miller, Carolyn Huey Meister, and Erica Lash Jones, all Gamma Upsilon/Miami, reunited with a familiar vibe in mind: Girls just want to have fun!

J Several Thetas attended the 2024 Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee (FSPAC) dinner. In the center of the group is Rep. **Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Gamma Chi/Fresno State**, who also attended Grand Convention 2024 as a special guest speaker!

K The **Chicago West Suburban Alumnae Circle** honored Theta's founders at their Founders Day lunch in March.

L In April, members of the **Birmingham, MI Alumnae Chapter** attended the Spring Into Hope fundraising luncheon to benefit Wayne

County CASA. Jane Bowman, Eta/Michigan; Tina Marakas Battle, Beta Pi/Michigan State; Joan Daly Redebaugh, Beta Pi/Michigan State; Melissa Manhart Ringey, Beta Pi/Michigan State; and Sue Garrett Skokos, Beta Pi/Michigan State, attended the fundraising luncheon.

M The **Omaha Alumnae Chapter** had great turnout for their June meeting where they enjoyed a lovely dinner by the pool and learned about skin care through the years. Pictured are **Becky Bezousek, Rho/Nebraska**; **Beth Pederson Broderick, Beta Kappa/Drake**; **Bridget Hoffart Frazer, Rho/Nebraska**; **Carly Moran, Rho/Nebraska**; **Carol Hofmann Evans, Beta Pi/Michigan State**; **Charissa Hauge Hansen, Rho/Nebraska**; **Cheri Callen Stevens, Rho/Nebraska**; **Dana Vehle Pflug, Rho/Nebraska**; **Jenna Stevens, Rho/Nebraska**; **Jessica Leggott Covi, Beta Kappa/Drake**;



Jillian Davis Charlton, Alpha Nu/Montana; Julie Moore Monie, Beta Delta/Arizona; Laura Farnham Pierson, Beta Kappa/Drake; Lauren Larson, Rho/Nebraska; Lisa Walter Vehle, Delta Eta/Kansas State; Lisa Worrall, Rho/Nebraska; Madison Bezousek, Rho/Nebraska; Mary Laura Young Farnham, Rho/Nebraska; Mary Brodersen Turner, Rho/Nebraska; Melissa Schorr, Alpha Mu/Missouri; Peyton Bell, Rho/Nebraska; Shayla McAndrews O'Brien, Kappa/Kansas; Susan Brown Ferrarini, Rho/Nebraska; Tara Al-Haj, Alpha Nu/Montana; and Tessa Bouley, Rho/Nebraska.

Megan Friess, Zeta Rho/UC San Diego; Jana Womack Albright, Delta Omega/Texas A&M; Marilyn Sosna, Gamma Sigma/San Diego State; Jane Palmer Horlings, Rho/Nebraska; Sigrid Pearson Moranz, Delta/Illinois; Susan Israel Wollkind, Chi/Syracuse; Anne Lowry Aulenbach, Gamma Rho/UC Santa Barbara; Corinne Akahoshi, Mu/Allegheny; Connie Black Martin, Gamma Rho/UC Santa Barbara; Haley Kniest, Epsilon Sigma/UC Irvine; E.T. Palmer-Torrison, Eta Upsilon/San Francisco; and Kaki Allen Brennehan, Beta Epsilon/Oregon State.

N In May, the South Orange County Alumnae Chapter met for its 19th annual Theta Tea. They enjoyed sunshine, great food, and wonderful sisterhood. Pictured are Suzanne Jolly, Epsilon Omega/Washington & Jefferson; Mion Learned, Epsilon Sigma/UC Irvine; Donna Magwood, Tau/Northwestern; Julie Nause Bellotti, Beta Pi/Michigan State;



AUTHORS

- Donna Riley Jones, Beta Xi/UCLA, recently released her book titled *Healthy Conflict, Peaceful Life: A Biblical Guide for Communicating Thoughts, Feelings, and Opinions with Grace, Truth, and Zero Regret.*



DONNA JONES

HEALTHY
CONFLICT,
PEACEFUL
LIFE

A BIBLICAL GUIDE FOR COMMUNICATING
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND OPINIONS
WITH GRACE, TRUTH, AND ZERO REGRETS

Preserving the Pink House on Pearl

By: FHC Executive Director Teresa Silva Smith, Phi/Pacific



For more than 120 years, Alpha Theta Chapter has been a leader on the University of Texas at Austin campus, and the living environment needed to reflect that. In partnership with McKinney York Architects located in Austin, Tex., Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC) staff and volunteers developed plans to renovate the Pink House on Pearl. The proposed plans were created with feedback from undergraduate members, the architect, alumnae, and FHC personnel.

We were pleased to make major infrastructure upgrades to the entire facility, including a brand-new HVAC system, electrical updates, window and door replacements, and updated flooring. We also added another guest restroom on the first floor. The chapter room and storage closets were reconfigured to allow for more space for chapter meetings. The dining room also received an update by adding French doors to create indoor/outdoor space for events that will easily flow out to the patio.

A key portion of the renovation

was a new addition over the existing chapter room. This space was designed exclusively for studying and gives members a private space to focus on academic development. The reading room includes plenty of natural light and abundant options for seating and studying.

This entire project was made possible by generous Alpha Theta Chapter alumnae who gave their time, talents, and donations to this project. Capital campaign co-chairs Beth Bridges Cozby and Emily Wynne Bolin dedicated an incredible amount of time to ensure the fundraising was a success for this special project. Beth and Emily met with individual donors and gave countless hours to ensure this project could be completed. The success of this capital campaign stands as a shining example of what can be accomplished through collective effort and generosity. The campaign not only met its target, but exceeded it, gathering an impressive total of over \$4.3 million for décor and renovations. I am also pleased



to recognize honorary campaign chair Mary Stewart Thomas Ramsey and her positive impact on Alpha Theta Chapter.

The FHC was excited to partner with a design committee that included Ellie Harter Bale and Nicole Domercq Zarr, Alpha Theta Chapter alumnae and professional interior designers. The committee ensured all décor and selections were true to the tradition of Alpha Theta Chapter while also reflecting the aesthetic of today's college student. They designed every space meticulously and each space has its own personality. From all of us at FHC, we are so thankful for them!

On Thursday, Oct. 24, the capital campaign committee, in partnership with FHC, hosted two open house events to showcase the renovations: tea in the afternoon and an evening happy hour. To pay homage to the Pink House on Pearl, everyone was invited to wear their favorite pink outfits. Many alumnae came to visit the place they called home, and they were so happy with the renovations. It was heartwarming to meet everyone who contributed to the capital campaign and hear stories about each member's time in the house. We are incredibly thankful to all the generous alumnae who donated and supported the renovations at Alpha Theta Chapter. It was a true partnership with everyone involved having the same goal of making the Pink House the very best it can be!

1: Capital campaign co-chairs Beth Bridges Cozby and Emily Wynne Bolin

2: Interior designers Ellie Harter Bale and Nicole Domercq Zarr

3: Reading Room

4: Study Nook

5: Game Room

6: Security Alcove

7: Bethanne Rutledge Scott, Anne Scott Ebert, and Kate Flack Scott

8: Leann Lees White, Beth Bridges Cozby, Leslie Moritz, Ellie Harter Bale, Anna Moritz, and Meg Moritz

9: Leigh Taylor Bornitz and Anna Head Moss

10: Nancy Sharp, Suzanne Henderson Kerr, Daisy Whitridge Quayle, Virginia Meyers Chandler, and Judy Camp Sauer

11: Katie Lawson Jaffe and Nicole Domercq Zarr

12: Amanda Merritt Beck Foster and Rita Ramsey Kreisle

13: Carrie Skelton Holcomb and Anne Munger Freeman

14: Carla Brumley Brown and Mary Stewart Thomas Ramsey



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DAY OF SERVICE



Voices

From 1870 to 2024, Kappa Alpha Theta has been bringing women together in a sisterhood that lasts a lifetime. In groups like Theta, you find your best friend.

Rachel Ingle
Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern (See page 24.)

My friendship with Amy reminded me so much of all of the best friends that I met from Theta. I cannot thank Theta enough for the friendships made!

Cortney Garabedian
Gamma Chi/Fresno State (See page 22.)

When we choose to uplift and empower one another, incredible things happen. We become a force to be reckoned with. We become a force that can shatter glass ceilings, break down barriers, and change the world for the better.

"President's Address 2024"
(See page 12.)

Many alumnae came to visit the place they called home, and they were so happy with the renovations. ... We are incredibly thankful to all the generous alumnae who donated and supported the renovations at Alpha Theta Chapter.

Teresa Silva Smith
Phi/Pacific (See page 36.)

Sisterhood is a powerful bond that lifts us up, offering strength in times of struggle and joy in moments of triumph.

"Founders Day 2025"
(See page 6.)